

Welcome to St. Matthews

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ."

We are honored to have you worship with us today and we hope that you will receive a warm welcome and experience the presence of our Lord in a significant way.

GATHERING HYMNS

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Page 5

Holy Forever

on the screen

Psalms 150 (Praise the Lord)

Page 589

FAMILY JOYS AND CONCERNS – Please share!

PRAYER FOR JOYS AND CONCERNS

*****FRIENDSHIP PAD – Please sign and include any contact info updates.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 118**

Awake to the day of triumph for our Savior!

Give thanks for this day that leads to the cross!

Come with your branches, hosannas and songs!

Fill the air with welcome to the Lord!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

OPENING HYMN *Arkansas Traveler/All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* Page 6

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us face this day of palms and Jesus' passion with honesty, confessing our sin before God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Psalm 118

Holy God, sure of your faithfulness even in your dying, comforted by your compassion toward your people in every age, we beg your mercy for our imperfect gratitude.

We have looked to you for paltry favors, when you have given everything.

We have withheld from your people, our neighbors, and from your creation, our Earth, the care and tending they deserve.

We have rejected the cornerstone you sent to build a people of righteousness even here, today. Forgive our failings. Heal what we have broken, nurture what we have neglected, and lead us to your vision, so that we may know the peace of wholeness in you; in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Matthew, Philippians

Your God has come to you, humble, in the form of a slave, to free you from the weight of sin and death.

Jesus' obedient suffering has released you.

Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the one who is exalted beyond what we can comprehend:

Christ, our Savior and Lord.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Gabby Bentley

"THE PASSING OF THE PEACE"

PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE FOR OFFERING

Malachi 1:6-8, Page 776

"A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. But you say, 'How have we despised your name?' By offering polluted food upon my altar. But you say, 'How have we polluted you?' By saying that the LORD's table may be despised. When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the LORD of hosts."

MIDDLE HYMN *All Hail the King of Heaven*

SCRIPTURE READING Wanda Wunder

Old Testament Reading:

Isaiah 25:6-8, Page 568

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

Psalm Reading:

Psalm 23: 5-6, page 436

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

SERMON Pastor Wil Hoffman

Sermon Title:

“God’s Invitation –To the Banquet”

Sermon Text:

Matthew 22:1-4

***THE LORD’S PRAYER – ALL**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

***CLOSING HYMN** *Lift High the Name of Jesus* Page 487

***CLOSING PRAYER**

***CONGREGATIONAL SUNG RESPONSE – ALL** *Go Now In Peace*

Go now in peace; never be afraid, God will go with you each hour of every day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true. Know He will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe, reach out to others, so all the world can see. God will be there, watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith and in love. Amen. Amen. Amen.

(CCLI #2810357 Don Besig)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, March 29	Palm Sunday	-Sanctuary 9am
Monday, March 30		-Office Open 10am -2pm
	Exercise Group	-Gathering Rm, 10:30am
Wednesday, April 1		-Office Open 10am – 2pm
Thursday, April 2		-Office Open 10am – 2pm
	Exercise Group	-Gathering Rm, 10:30pm
	Maundy Thursday	-Sanctuary, 6:30pm
Sunday, April 5	Easter Dawn Service	-Church Grove, 6am
	Breakfast	-Fellowship Hall
	Easter Service	- Sanctuary, 9am

Pastor: Wil Hoffman

Council President: RJ Cramer

March Lead Usher – Riston Barr

Altar Flowers

**Vase #1 and Vase #2 – In loving memory of Helen Gower
by Michelle Berhel and Family**

- ❖ **March Joyful Noise – Family Promise for Monroe County** is part of the Family Promise of the Poconos organization that provides essential services to families experiencing homelessness. They offer temporary shelter, meals and support services to at-risk children and their families. Their mission focuses on quickly transitioning families into independent housing through case management and collaboration with community agencies and volunteers. They also welcome donations of furniture and household items to assist families in need.
- ❖ **March 29th Palm Sunday– Band and Breakfast and packing Easter Meal Bags!**
Join us for another great worship service with a few extra musicians playing with Dan and RJ! Then have a breakfast burrito and fill a couple of the meal bags that will be distributed at the West End Food Pantry for Easter!
- ❖ **Maundy Thursday Service** – April 2nd at 6:30pm in the sanctuary.
- ❖ **Easter Services – April 5th**
 - 6:00am service in the grove
 - Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall
 - 9:00am service in the sanctuary
- ❖ **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!! April 11th join the CIA for dinner and a movie!**
Tickets will be on sale for \$10 per person, \$5 for children 12 years old or younger. Dinner will be veggie or meat lasagna and salad. The movie is 'Soul on Fire'. See a CIA member for a ticket.
- ❖ **Wednesday Night Bible Study will return to Wednesdays on April 8th at 6:30pm.**



**St. Matthew's EC Church Kunkletown
March 29, 2026**

102 Church Rd, Kunkletown, PA 18058
610-381-2442, stmatts@ptd.net
www.stmattsecckunkletown.com

St. Matthew's Prayer List – March 29, 2026

KINGDOM WORK:

- **Sister Helena** – Zambia – raising chickens, growing vegetables feeding the children and can now put a roof on facility
- **Randy & Deb Sheagley** – Touch the World website

MILITARY:

- **Major James Beidleman:** Pilot at Dover Air Force Base
- **Logan Mackes** (Grandson of Rose Fritz): Serving in the U.S. Army in Fort Hood, TX for next 2½ years from Jan. 30, 2025
- **Bryce Silliman** (Irene and Dean Zacharias' grandson) US Navy
- **Conner Wise** (Hal's cousin's son): U.S. Marine deployed to Iwakuni, Japan (via Hawaii & Guam) for 6-9 months.

LONG-TERM NEEDS:

- **Conner Bittenbender:** (Bittenbender Family Member): Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy; lab test results & healing
- **Roberta Heffley** (Eleanor Long's Sister): Cancer
- **Shannon Osinski** (wife of James Osinski) Ehlers Danlos Syndrome
- **Eileen Ravalico** (Roy Zeruth's friend): Cancer
- **Sheila Sherer** (Eleanor Long's Niece): Fluid on her brain
- **Hudson Stewart** (Bittenbender Family Member): Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy; no symptoms yet

SHUT INS:

- **Gloria (Jeannie) Anewalt:** Walden Building III, Room 118, 325 N. Broadway, Wind Gap, PA 18091
- **Gene and Sandy Borger** – P.O. Box 907, Kresgeville PA 18333
- **James Borger**—526 Wood Street, Apt 439, Bethlehem PA 18018-4463
- **Kyle Frable**—104 5K Lane, Kunkletown PA 18058
- **Joann Hunsicker**—Mrs. Bush's Personal Care—2W, P.O. Box 327, Kunkletown PA 18058
- **Shirley Kuntz**—Getz Personal Care Home, 1026 Scenic Dr, Kunkletown PA 18058
- **Gladys Meixsell**—Stroudsburg Post Acute Nursing and Rehabilitation, 4227 Manor Dr, Stroudsburg PA 18360

- **Jacqueline Mock**—Mrs. Bush's Personal Care—P.O. Box 327, Kunkletown, PA 18058
- **Marlette Palermo** – 276 Bollinger Rd., Kunkletown PA 18058
- **Velma Silfies**—Mrs. Bush's Personal Care, 302 Kunkletown Rd, Kunkletown PA 18058
- **Leah Jane Sterner**—300 Covered Bridge Rd, Kunkletown PA 18058
- **Jesse Ziegenfus**—Brookmont Healthcare Ctr, 510 Brookmont Dr, Effort PA 18330

PRAYERS NEEDED FOR STRENGTH AND HEALING:

- **Lois Bachman/1**
- **Darryl and Devoe Breinich/5***
- **Sandy Christman** (Marie's sister-in-law)/2
- **Rose Fritz/3**
- **Roger Hawk** (Mitchell Hawk's brother)/3
- **Jeff Keiser/3**
- **Wade Koehler** (Vivian Smith's friend)/2
- **Pastor Larry Laine** (Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church)2
- **Christy Larue** (Magen Snyder's friend)4
- **Ian Snyder/5***
- **Jordan Vitale** (Paul LoMonaco's cousin)/2

BEREAVEMENT – Prayers for the family

- **Barbara Dorshimer** (friend of Judy Hawk)/2
- **Kay Frable/1**
- **Melissa Frey** (Janet Smith's great niece)3
- **Larry Hahn/1**
- **Meghan** (family friend of Dawn and Tom Hockman/1
- **Lenore Morrow** (George Huber's sister-in-law)/3
- **Daniel Shea** (Paul LoMonaco's brother)/4
- **Tiffany Smith's uncle/1**

** indicates changes from last week. For additions, updates or removals, please contact the Church Office at 610-381-2442 or complete and return a Prayer Card.*